

Voluntary - Public

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Austria's Reaction on H1N1 Flu Outbreaks

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

All Austrian media reported in detail on the H1N1 flu outbreak in Mexico and the United States and the first confirmed cases in Europe. The Austrian Government recommends to avoid travels to Mexico and to be cautious when traveling to the United States. Precaution measures for a possible pandemic outbreak are laid down in the Austrian influenza pandemic plan. Government speakers emphasize that Austria is well-prepared for a possible outbreak of the disease in the country. On Wednesday, April 29, the country's first case of H1N1 flu was confirmed. Austria is not expected to introduce any restrictions on pork trade.

General Information:

All Austrian media report in detail on the H1N1 flu outbreak in Mexico and the United States and the first confirmed cases in Europe.

The Austrian Foreign Ministry advises strongly against all unnecessary travels to Mexico and to avoid crowded areas when travelling to the United States. Furthermore the Ministry advises travelers to consult the doctor when experiencing flu symptoms.

The Austrian Health Ministry refers to the Austrian influenza pandemic plan which has been in place since

2005 (as a result of the avian flu outbreak). Precaution measures according to this contingency plan include ensuring the quick availability of vaccine, antiviral medication (neuraminidase blocker), and protection masks. In the case of a pandemic outbreak, sufficient vaccine for the entire 8 million population of Austria should be available within a couple of weeks. The vaccine will be produced by the pharmaceutical concern Baxter in laboratories located in Austria. Austria currently has antiviral medicine "Tamiflu" and "Relenza" for 4 million people and masks are available for every Austrian.

Austrian medical experts emphasize that Austria is well-prepared for a possible outbreak of the disease. On Wednesday, April 29, the country's first case of H1N1 flu was confirmed. The 28-year-old woman from Vienna had recently returned from a trip to Mexico.

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety reports that it is extremely unlikely to get a H1N1 flu infection through the consumption of pork because the virus is killed by the cooking process. Cooked pork is considered to be safe. Austria is not expected to introduce any restrictions on pork trade.